



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BETH MEYERS

Rep. Meyers Memorial Day Message 2016

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For many Americans, Memorial Day marks the official kickoff to summer. While we look forward to enjoying the upcoming months of sunshine and fun in Northern Wisconsin, I want to encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on the importance of the final Monday in May.

Memorial Day exists to honor the sacrifice of all Americans who have died in battle. Since 1971, Memorial Day has been a federally recognized holiday, but its roots go much further back. Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, communities around the nation found ways to honor the fallen of that bloody war.

Shortly after the Civil War, in Columbus, Mississippi, a group of women gathered at a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had died at the Battle of Shiloh. Noticing that the graves of Union soldiers nearby were bare, the women placed flowers on their graves as well. In 1868, the Grand Army of the Republic established what it called “Decoration Day” on May 30th, as a day to decorate the graves of the war dead. Around the country, individuals and communities celebrated their own “Decoration Days” and “Memorial Days,” until it became an official national holiday in 1971.

Today, Memorial Day is commemorated at Arlington National Cemetery and cemeteries around the country by placing a flag at the graves of fallen soldiers. To encourage everyone in the United States to honor our fallen heroes, the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance, created in 2000, also asks us to observe a moment of silence at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day.

So today I hope everyone will take a moment to reflect on those that have fallen in service to our great nation – from the Massachusetts Militiamen killed at Lexington and Concord, to the over 6,000 American men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and every conflict in between. Wherever you are at 3 p.m. this Memorial Day, I encourage you to observe a moment of silence to remember and honor our fallen.

It is days like today that I am especially proud to be your State Representative. I know that without the sacrifices of past Americans we would not enjoy the freedoms and democratic government that we do now.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns about any issues relating to state government. I can be reached at 888-534-0074 or Rep.Meyers@legis.wisconsin.gov .

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